



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***The key to realizing a dream is to focus not on success but on significance
and then even the small steps and little victories along your path will take on greater meaning.
-Oprah Winfrey, submitted by Mia Black, Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility***

Friday, February 29, 2008

Congratulations to Lieutenant William Searing of the Reception and Diagnostic Center who was elected president of the Indiana Association of Hostage Crisis Negotiators (IAHCN) for 2008. The mission of the association is to provide training and networking between the FBI, State Police, Indiana Department of Correction, Sheriff Departments and local law enforcement. These organizations also lend support and knowledge to each other's departments.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility concluded its celebration of Black History Month with a closing program where a panel of local professionals and celebrities performed and answered questions posed by the students. The panel reinforced positive attitudes and behaviors and shared their personal paths to success. The program ended with Kevin Moore, Director of Juvenile Services, honoring the family and memory of Jerome Brewer, who died in the line of duty on August 1, 2007. The building will now be known as "The Jerome Brewer Recreation Center."

The South Bend Community Reentry Center coordinated its first ever Job Fair with a local staffing agency that represents a variety of local employers. Agency personnel visited the facility to interview offender applicants. Twenty-four offenders went through the agency's orientation and application process. Five offenders have already been placed into jobs and up to 10 more offenders are being considered for immediate job placement. Due to the success of the event, the staffing agency is interested in continuing to conduct periodic job fairs to fill their positions.

Five offenders at Westville Correctional Facility have completed the ACT program; transfers are in process to send them from long-term disciplinary segregation to maximum-security general population to complete the last six-month phase of that program. ACT is a step-down re-entry program to enable compliant offenders to return to general population first instead of releasing them from a special control unit directly to the streets.

Twelve E-Squad members from the Putnamville Correctional Facility took the "Polar Bear Plunge" for Special Olympics. The team raised \$1500 in donations and took first place by diving in and staying in the icy lake at Eagle Creek Park for 2 minutes 3 seconds.

The Indiana Women's Prison Outreach Program donated 30 handmade stuffed animals to "Operation DOC Cares." The stuffed animals will be sent to families of the IDOC employees serving our great country.

Each evening this week, Madison Correctional Facility's two offender city crews were dedicated to repainting the interior of City Hall. Last week, they painted the City's police department interior walls.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility held its "Black History is Our History" interfaith service, where over 70 offenders received a challenge to fight racism with love not hatred and intolerance. In addition, representatives from the Muslim and Christian communities addressed the need for religious tolerance and spoke of the common bonds between each faith's traditions.

The education department at Correctional Industrial Facility held a celebration of Black History Month. The program featured Northern Regional Director Rondle Anderson as the guest speaker, along with a facility choir, panel debate, and a trivia quiz.

Offenders at the Indiana State Prison enjoyed a concert by the Blood Brothers Band, a contemporary Christian band stationed out of the River of Life Church in Michigan City.